Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics

Marital Status & Families
- 1996 Census Results -

Northwest Territories

In 1996 Statistics Canada conducted a national census of all persons and dwellings in Canada. This report summarizes the census results for the Northwest Territories on (i) marital status; and (ii) family characteristics. The planned release dates for other variables from the 1996 census are provided at the end of this report.

Results indicate that in the Northwest Territories the percentage of married people has been increasing over the past 25 years. Between 1971 and 1996 the percentage of married individuals (including common-law relationships) increased by 4 percentage points in the Northwest Territories, from 35% to 39%. Similarly for Canada, the percentage of married individuals increased from 44% to 47% between 1971 and 1996.

Between 1971 and 1996 the average family size for the Northwest Territories decreased by 23%, from 4.7 persons per family in 1971 to 3.6 in 1996. For all of Canada, the average size of a family decreased by 16%, from 3.7 to 3.1 family members, during the same period. Similarly, the percentage of families in the Northwest Territories with 5 or more persons, decreased from 44% of all families in 1971 to 25% in 1996. Family size, however, differs significantly between Nunavut and the Western NWT. For Nunavut, some 37% of families are comprised of 5 or more persons compared to 19% of families in the Western NWT.

In addition to the decline in family size in Northwest Territories observed for the 1971 to 1996 period, there has also been an increase in the population that lives outside of families. The percentage of territorial residents that are not part of a family has increased from 9% in 1971 to15% in 1996. Non-family persons represent 12% of the population in Nunavut, while in the Western NWT some 16% of the population are non-family persons.

Family structure information for the Northwest Territories indicates that some 17% of families are lone-parent families, compared with 15% of families in all of Canada. Similar incidence of lone parent families are observed for Nunavut (19% of all families) and for the Western NWT (16% of all families). Common law couple represent 33% of husband-wife families in the Northwest Territories, significantly higher than for Canada where common law couples are 14% of total husband-wife families.

For the 14,955 families reported in the Northwest Territories, 21% reported not having any children at home. For Canada, 35% of families reported not having children living at home at the time of the 1996 census. Of the 11,775 families with children at home for the Northwest Territories, 45% reported four years or less as the age of the youngest child at home. In comparison, 28% of families with children in Canada have their youngest child four years of age or lower. Comparable values for the percentage of families with children whose youngest child is under the age of five for Nunavut and the Western NWT are 53% and 40% respectively. On average, there were a total of 1.8 children per family in the Northwest Territories compared to an average of 1.2 children per family for all of Canada. For Nunavut, the average number of children per family is higher at 2.2 persons per family than for the Western NWT at 1.6 children per family.

Examining the population under 15 years of age indicates that 93% of these children live with at least one of their parents in the Northwest Territories. For the 7% not living with parents, 6% live with another family member and the other 1% live with non-relatives. For Canada, 98% of children under 15 years of age live with a parent while 1.6% live with other relatives.

There were a total of 18,825 private households reported in the Northwest Territories at the time of the 1996 census, 10,420 (55%) of which were reported as single-detached homes. On a population basis, 65% of persons in the Northwest Territories lived in a single-detached home. On average, there were 3.4 people per household in the Northwest Territories compared to an average of 2.6 persons per home for all of Canada.

Table 96.1 Population, by Marital Status
Northwest Territories and Canada, Census 1996 - 71

	1996	(%)	1991	(%)	1986	(%)	1981	(%)	1976	(%)	1971	(%)
Northwest Territories	64,400	100.0	57,650	100.0	52,240	100.0	45,740	100.0	42,610	100.0	34,805	100.0
Never Married (single)	35,475	55.1	32,385	56.2	29,715	56.9	26,240	57.4	25,215	59.2	21,395	61.5
Married (incl. common-law)	25,395	39.4	22,235	38.6	19,815	37.9	17,390	38.0	15,640	36.7	12,155	34.9
Separated	1,040	1.6	855	1.5	850	1.6	620	1.4	560	1.3	400	1.1
Divorced	1,280	2.0	1,035	1.8	805	1.5	545	1.2	370	.9	200	.6
Widowed	1,210	1.9	1,140	2.0	1,055	2.0	945	2.1	825	1.9	655	1.9
Canada ('000)	28,847	100.0	27,297	100.0	25,309	100.0	24,343	100.0	22,993	100.0	21,568	100.0
Never Married (single)	12,097	41.9	11,398	41.8	10,817	42.7	10,736	44.1	10,673	46.4	10,672	49.5
Married (incl. common-law)	13,567	47.0	13,141	48.1	12,034	47.5	11,479	47.2	10,593	46.1	9,406	43.6
Separated	589	2.0	504	1.8	518	2.0	470	1.9	381	1.7	371	1.7
Divorced	1,171	4.1	909	3.3	690	2.7	500	2.1	303	1.3	175	.8
Widowed	1,422	4.9	1,345	4.9	1,250	4.9	1,158	4.8	1,044	4.5	944	4.4

Figure 96.1 Percent of Population Never Married
Northwest Territories and Canada, Census 1996 - 71

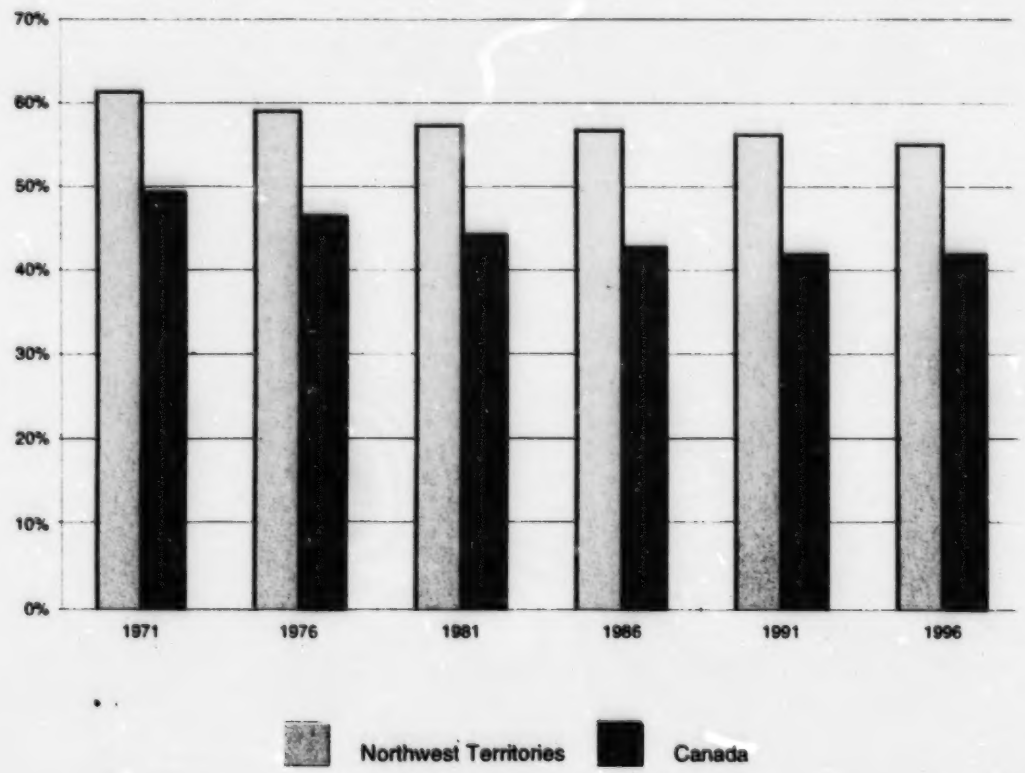

Table 96.2 Population, by Age and Marital Status
Northwest Territories, Census 1996

	Total Persons	Never Married	Divorced	Widowed	Married	
					Not Separated	Separated
All Ages	64,405	35,475	1,280	1,210	25,395	1,045
0 - 14 Years	21,000	21,000	-	-	-	-
15-19 Years	5,345	4,960	-	5	380	-
20-24 Years	5,005	3,175	10	5	1,800	20
25-29 Years	5,985	2,270	40	10	3,575	90
30-34 Years	6,245	1,455	120	15	4,495	160
35-39 Years	5,460	980	225	25	4,055	170
40-44 Years	4,355	575	240	35	3,355	150
45-49 Years	3,775	420	275	70	2,850	160
50-54 Years	2,385	215	145	85	1,850	95
55-59 Years	1,700	155	110	135	1,235	60
60-64 Years	1,205	90	55	170	830	60
65-69 Years	780	95	30	175	440	45
70-74 Years	485	50	10	150	255	15
75-59 Years	320	20	5	135	155	5
80-85 Years	190	10	5	105	60	15
85-89 Years	110	5	-	60	40	5
90 Years & Over	60	5	-	40	15	-
Median Age	26	12	45	67	38	43

Table 96.3 Population, by Sex and Marital Status
Northwest Territories and Canada, Census 1996

	All Persons	(%)	Male	(%)	Female	(%)
Northwest Territories	64,400	100.0	33,380	51.8	31,020	48.2
Never Married (single)	35,475	100.0	19,050	53.7	16,425	46.3
Married (including common-law)	25,395	100.0	12,805	50.4	12,585	49.6
Separated	1,040	100.0	555	53.4	485	46.6
Divorced	1,280	100.0	605	47.3	670	52.3
Widowed	1,210	100.0	360	29.8	855	70.7
Canada	28,846,760	100.0	14,170,030	49.1	14,676,735	50.9
Never Married (single)	12,096,855	100.0	6,408,930	53.0	5,687,925	47.0
Married (including common-law)	13,567,470	100.0	6,786,360	50.0	6,781,115	50.0
Separated	588,710	100.0	253,910	43.1	334,805	56.9
Divorced	1,171,345	100.0	479,725	41.0	691,620	59.0
Widowed	1,422,380	100.0	241,105	17.0	1,181,270	83.0

Table 96.4 Census Families in Private Households, by Size of Family
Northwest Territories, Census 1996 - 71

	1996	(%)	1991	(%)	1986	(%)	1981	(%)	1976	(%)	1971	(%)
Total Families	14,955	100.0	12,720	100.0	11,210	100.0	9,485	100.0	8,420	100.0	6,545	100.0
2 Person Families	4,425	29.6	3,595	28.3	2,945	26.3	2,340	24.7	1,835	21.8	1,230	18.8
3 Person Families	3,320	22.2	2,750	21.6	2,380	21.2	2,015	21.2	1,700	20.2	1,165	17.8
4 Person Families	3,440	23.0	2,970	23.3	2,690	24.0	2,140	22.6	1,835	21.8	1,250	19.1
5 Person Families	2,035	13.6	1,695	13.3	1,485	13.2	1,220	12.9	1,080	12.8	925	14.1
6 Person Families	1,000	6.7	945	7.4	780	7.0	730	7.7	740	8.8	690	10.5
7 Person Families	460	3.1	405	3.2	430	3.8	435	4.6	445	5.3	505	7.7
8 Person Families	275	1.8	355	2.8	490	4.4	605	6.4	785	9.3	780	11.9
Total Persons in Families	54,365	85.5	47,450	84.3	43,480	86.0	38,140	87.0	36,170	88.5	30,555	91.1
Total Persons not in Families	9,230	14.5	8,825	15.7	7,090	14.0	5,700	13.0	4,715	11.5	2,970	8.9
Average Number of Persons per Family	3.6	..	3.7	..	3.9	..	4.0	..	4.3	..	4.7	..

Figure 96.4 Average Number of Persons per Family
Northwest Territories and Canada, Census 1996 - 71

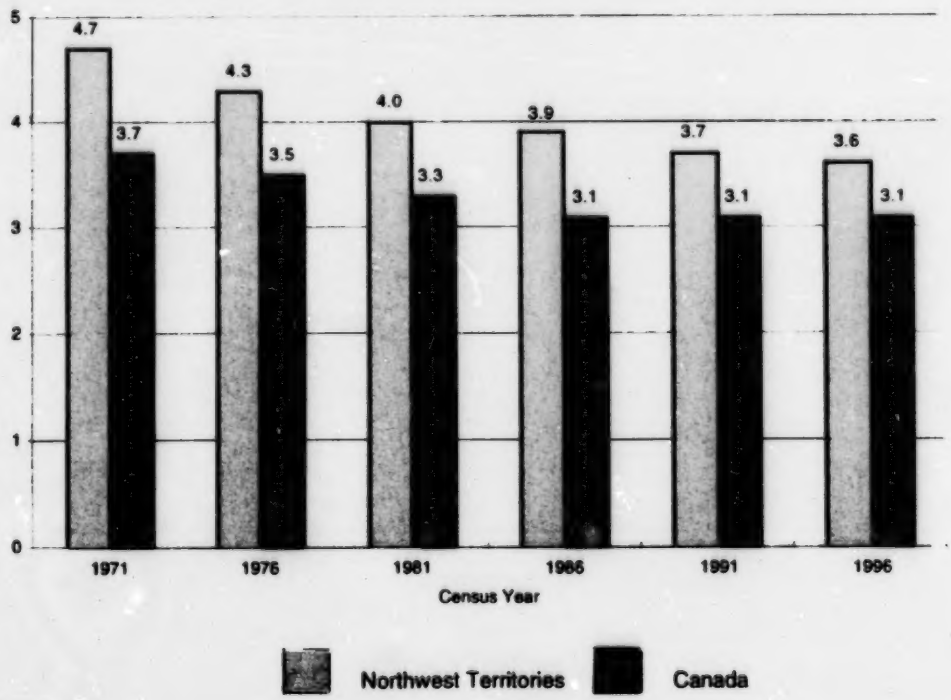

Table 96.5 Census Families, by Age of Youngest Child at Home and Family Structure
Northwest Territories, Census 1996

		Husband and Wife Families			Lone-Parent Families		
	Total Families	Total	Now Married Couples	Common-Law Couples	Total	Male Parent	Female Parent
Census Families	14,955	12,395	8,340	4,050	2,565	590	1,975
Families with no Children at Home	3,180	3,180	1,870	1,310			
Families with Children at Home	11,775	9,215	6,470	2,740	2,560	585	1,980
Youngest Child:							
0 to 4 Years	5,265	4,470	2,680	1,790	795	100	695
5 to 6 Years	1,325	1,030	720	305	295	65	235
7 to 14 Years	3,070	2,325	1,860	465	745	195	550
15 to 17 Years	690	495	420	70	200	75	125
18 to 24 Years	920	665	575	90	255	80	180
25 Years and Over	495	230	215	15	260	70	195

Table 96.6 Census Families, by Age of Children at Home and Family Structure
Northwest Territories, Census 1996

		Husband and Wife Families			Lone-Parent Families		
	Total Families	Total	Now Married Couples	Common-Law Couples	Total	Male Parent	Female Parent
Census Families	14,955	12,395	8,345	4,050	2,560	590	1,975
Families without Children at Home	3,180	3,185	1,875	1,310			
Families with Children at Home	11,775	9,210	6,475	2,740	2,560	590	1,980
Total Families with Children 25 Yrs. and Over	495	230	215	15	260	70	190
Total Families with Children 24 Yrs. and Under	11,285	8,985	6,260	2,720	2,300	515	1,785
All 18 Yrs. and Over	920	660	575	90	255	80	180
Some 18 Yrs. and Over	1,845	1,485	1,310	175	360	75	280
All 17 Yrs. and Younger	8,520	6,830	4,370	2,465	1,685	360	1,325
All Under 6 Yrs	2,755	2,260	1,185	1,075	495	80	415
All 6-14 Yrs.	2,010	1,415	990	420	590	150	445
All 15-17 rs	370	245	195	50	125	50	80
Some Under 6 and Some 6-14 Yrs	2265	1970	1235	730	290	50	245
Some Under 6 and Some 15-17 Yrs.	75	60	30	30	15	0	10
Some 6-14 and Some 15-17 Yrs.	690	575	485	85	115	30	85
Some Under 6, Some 6-14 and Some 15-17 Yrs.	355	305	245	65	45	10	40

Table 96.7 Census Families, by Number of Children and Family Structure
Northwest Territories, Census 1996

	Total Families	Husband and Wife Families			Lone-Parent Families		
		Total	Now Married Couples	Common-Law Couples	Total	Male Parent	Female Parent
Census Families	14,955	12,395	8,345	4,050	2,560	585	1,980
Families without Children at Home	3,185	3,185	1,875	1,310	..	..	..
Families with Children at Home	11,770	9,210	6,470	2,740	2,565	585	1,975
One Child	3,830	2,590	1,590	1,000	1,240	300	935
Two Children	3,805	3,075	2,190	885	730	180	550
Three Children	2,245	1,875	1,365	515	365	60	305
Four Children	1,115	965	740	225	155	30	125
Five Children	780	710	595	115	70	15	60
Total Children at Home	27,015	22,195	16,365	5,835	4,820	1,030	3,790
Children 24 Years and Under at Home	25,675	21,395	15,620	5,785	4,275	890	3,385
Children 25 Years and Over at Home	1,340	795	740	50	545	140	400
Average Number of Children per Family	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.9

Table 96.8 Population in Private Households, by Sex and Living Arrangements
Northwest Territories, Census 1996

	All Persons	(%)	Male	(%)	Female	(%)
All Persons in Private Households	63,595	100.0	32,830	100.0	30,760	100.0
Population in Family Households	57,695	90.7	29,250	89.1	28,445	92.5
Spouses, Common-law Partners or Lone-Parents	27,350	43.0	12,980	39.5	14,370	46.7
Children:						
Two Parents	22,195	34.9	11,775	35.9	10,420	33.9
One Parent	4,820	7.6	2,640	8.0	2,175	7.1
Non-Family Persons:						
Living with Relatives	2,360	3.7	1,320	4.0	1,035	3.4
Living with Non-Relatives Only	975	1.5	525	1.6	450	1.5
Population in Non-Family Households	5,900	9.3	3,580	10.9	2,320	7.5
Living with Relatives	925	1.5	540	1.6	385	1.3
Living with One or more Non-Relatives	1,635	2.6	970	3.0	665	2.2
Living Alone	3,335	5.2	2,070	6.3	1,265	4.1

Table 96.9 Population in Private Households, by Age and Living Arrangements
Northwest Territories, Census 1996

	All Ages	Under 15 Yrs.	15-19 Years	20-24 Years	25-29 Years	30-34 Years	35-44 Years	45-54 Years	55-64 Years	65 Yrs. & Over
All Persons in Private Households	63,595	20,940	5,310	4,935	5,915	6,175	9,630	6,040	2,830	1,815
Population in Family Households	57,695	20,820	5,125	4,275	4,900	5,390	8,365	5,155	2,340	1,335
Spouses, Common-law Partners or Lone-Parents	27,350	-	410	1,940	3,875	4,825	7,930	4,965	2,225	1,175
Children:										
Two Parents	22,195	16,425	3,450	1,525	510	165	100	20	10	-
One Parent	4,820	3,075	800	400	210	165	110	40	15	-
Non-Family Persons:										
Living with Relatives	2,360	1,115	315	250	165	115	100	75	70	145
Living with Non-Relatives Only	975	200	145	160	145	110	120	55	20	10
Population in Non-Family Households	5,900	120	185	655	1,020	785	1,270	885	495	480
Living with Relatives	925	110	105	135	135	80	120	65	65	105
Living with One or more Non-Relatives	1,635	15	70	330	435	265	295	155	55	15
Living Alone	3,335	-	10	195	445	445	855	665	370	355

Table 96.10 Private Households, by Type of Dwelling and Size
Northwest Territories, Census 1996

	Total	Single-Detached House	Apartment, Five or More Stories	Movable Dwelling	Other Dwelling
Total Households	18,825	10,420	605	1,460	6,340
1 Person	3,335	1,040	295	190	1,810
2 Persons	4,095	1,740	215	400	1,740
3 Persons	3,250	1,680	60	350	1,165
4 Persons	3,440	2,170	25	330	915
5 Persons	2,205	1,645	10	130	420
6 Persons	1,250	1,030	-	35	180
7 Persons	625	545	-	15	65
8 Persons	295	265	-	-	25
9 Persons	165	150	-	-	15
10 or more Persons	165	155	-	-	10
Total Persons in Households	63,590	41,625	1,060	4,390	16,520
Average Number of Persons in Household	3.4	4.0	1.8	3.0	2.6

Table 96.11 Comparison of Marital Status & Families, by Selected Variables
Northwest Territories, Nunavut & Western NWT, Census 1996

	Northwest Territories		Nunavut		Western NWT	
	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)
Total Population	64,400	..	24,725	..	39,675	..
Population Over 15, by Legal Marital Status						
Total population 15 Years and Over	43,400	100.0	15,240	100.0	28,160	100.0
Never Married (single)	21,185	48.8	8,225	54.0	12,960	46.0
Legally Married (not separated)	17,280	39.8	5,590	36.7	11,690	41.5
Separated, but Still Legally Married	1,430	3.3	450	3.0	980	3.5
Divorced	2,175	5.0	460	3.0	1,715	6.1
Widowed	1,330	3.1	520	3.4	810	2.9
Family Size, by Number of Persons in Family						
Total Number of Census Families	14,955	100.0	5,275	100.0	9,680	100.0
2 Persons	4,420	29.6	1,185	22.5	3,235	33.4
3 Persons	3,320	22.2	1,015	19.2	2,305	23.8
4 Persons	3,440	23.0	1,120	21.2	2,320	24.0
5 or More Persons	3,770	25.2	1,940	36.8	1,830	18.9
Family Structure, by Marital Status						
Total Husband-Wife Families	12,390	82.8	4,285	81.2	8,105	83.7
Married Couples	8,345	55.8	2,655	50.3	5,690	58.8
Common-Law Couples	4,050	27.1	1,635	31.0	2,415	24.9
Lone-Parent Families	2,560	17.1	975	18.5	1,585	16.4
Number of Children at Home, by Age						
Total Number of Children at Home	27,015	100.0	11,835	100.0	15,180	100.0
Under 6 Years of Age	8,455	31.3	3,845	32.5	4,610	30.4
6-14 Years	11,045	40.9	4,890	41.3	6,155	40.5
15-17 Years	2,815	10.4	1,190	10.1	1,625	10.7
18-24 Years	3,365	12.5	1,380	11.7	1,985	13.1
25 Years and Over	1,340	5.0	535	4.5	805	5.3
Average Number of Children at Home	1.8	..	2.2	..	1.6	..

(continued)

Table 96.11 Comparison of Marital Status & Families, by Selected Variables
Northwest Territories, Nunavut & Western NWT, Census 1996

	Northwest Territories		Nunavut		Western NWT	
	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)
Population in Private Households, by Living Arrangements						
Total Number of Persons in Private Households	63,595	100.0	24,330	100.0	39,265	100.0
Number of Non-Family Persons	9,230	14.5	2,950	12.1	6,280	16.0
Number of Family Persons	54,365	85.5	21,390	87.9	32,975	84.0
Average Number of Persons per Census Family	3.6	..	4.1	..	3.4	..
Occupied Private Dwellings, by Type of Dwelling						
Total Occupied Private Dwellings	18,825	100.0	6,220	100.0	12,605	100.0
Single-Detached House	10,420	55.4	3,770	60.6	6,650	52.8
Semi-Detached House	1,340	7.1	670	10.8	670	5.3
Row House	2,550	13.5	1,195	19.2	1,355	10.7
Apartment, Detached Duplex	240	1.3	60	1.0	180	1.4
Apartment Building, Five or more Stories	600	3.2	150	2.4	450	3.6
Apartment Building, Less than Five Stories	2,100	11.2	300	4.8	1,800	14.3
Other Single Attached House	115	0.6	65	1.0	50	0.4
Movable Dwelling	1,460	7.8	10	0.2	1,450	11.5
Private Households, by Number of Persons						
Total Number of Private Households	18,825	100.0	6,215	100.0	12,610	100.0
1 Person	3,335	17.7	965	15.5	2,370	18.8
2 Persons	4,090	21.7	1,015	16.3	3,075	24.4
3 Persons	3,255	17.3	895	14.4	2,360	18.7
4-5 Persons	5,640	30.0	1,945	31.3	3,695	29.3
6 or more Persons	2,500	13.3	1,395	22.4	1,105	8.8

Definitions

Age

- Refers to the age at last birthday (as of the census reference date, May 14, 1996).

Census Family

- Refers to a now-married couple (with or without never-married sons and/or daughters of either or both spouses), a couple living common-law (with or without never-married sons and/or daughters of either or both partners) or a lone-parent of any marital status, with at least one never-married son or daughter living in the same dwelling.

Family Structure

- Refers to the classification of census families into families of now-married couples (with or without never-married sons or daughters of either or both spouses), families of common-law couples (with or without never-married sons or daughters of either or both partners) and lone-parent families by sex of parent.

Household

- Refers to a person or a group of persons (other than foreign residents), who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada. It may consist of a family group (census family) with or without other non-family persons, of two or more families sharing a dwelling, of a group of unrelated persons, or of one person living alone. Household members who are temporarily absent on Census Day (e.g., temporary residents elsewhere) are considered as part of their usual household. For census purposes, every person is a member of one and only one household. Unless otherwise specified, all data in household reports are for private households only. Households are classified into three groups: private households, collective households and households outside Canada.

Living Arrangements

- Refers to the classification of persons in terms of whether they are members of a family household or a non-family household, and whether they are family or non-family persons.

Marital Status

- Refers to the conjugal status of a person. The conjugal status can be further defined by legal and other, the major difference being that other includes common-law marriages in its definition of married.

Occupied Private Dwelling

- Refers to a private dwelling in which a person or a group of persons are permanently residing. Also included are private dwellings whose usual residents are temporarily absent on Census Day.

Sex

- Refers to the gender of the respondent.

Type of Dwelling

- Refers to the structural characteristics and/or dwelling configuration, that is, whether the dwelling is a single-detached house, an apartment in a high-rise building, a row house, a mobile home, etc.

Symbols and Abbreviations

-	zero or too small to be expressed	%	percent
..	not applicable		

Planned Release Dates for Census Information

April 1997	Population & Dwelling Counts
July 1997	Age & Sex
October 1997	Marital Status, Families (Number, Type & Structure)
November 1997	Citizenship & Immigration
December 1997	Language
January 1998	Aboriginal
February 1998	Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities
March 1998	Labour Force Activities, Industry, Occupation, Household Activities
April 1998	Education, Mobility & Migration
May 1998	Income
June 1998	Families (Social & Economic Characteristics), Dwellings, Households

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